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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re application of

Docket No: Q65208

Hachiro HONDA

Appln. No.: 09/897,604

Group Art Unit: 2172

Confirmation No.: 9621

Examiner: Jean B. Fleurantin

Filed: July 03, 2001

For: CONTENTS RETRIEVAL SYSTEM AND CONTENTS RETRIEVAL PROGRAM
STORAGE MEDIUM

SUBMISSION OF APPEAL BRIEF

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SEP 22 2004

Commissioner for Patents

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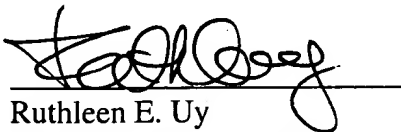
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Sir:

Submitted herewith please find an Appeal Brief. A check for the statutory fee of \$330.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

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Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, Appellant submits the following:

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this Appeal is Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. of Japan. The assignment was previously submitted and was recorded on July 3, 2001 at Reel 011963, Frame 0017.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the knowledge and belief of Appellant, the Assignee, and the undersigned, there are no other appeals or interferences before the Board of Appeals and Interferences that will directly affect or be affected by the Board's decision in the instant Appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 currently stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (USP 6,275,825) in view of Jacobs et al. (USP 5,694,595).

No other ground of rejection or objection is currently pending.

The rejection of claims 1-15 is being appealed.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

With the filing of this Brief, all Amendments have been entered and considered by the Examiner. In response to the non-final first Office Action (Paper No. 4), Appellant filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 September 22, 2003 containing an amendment to claim 3 and adding new claims 5-15. In response to the final Office Action (Paper No. 6), Appellant filed a Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

An Advisory Action (Paper No. 8), was mailed on April 7, 2004, and this Appeal was undertaken.

The Appendix included with this Brief, setting forth the claims involved in the Appeal, reflects all of the claim changes made in the above identified Amendments.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellant's invention, as recited in for example, independent claims 1 and 4, pertains to a contents retrieval system and a contents retrieval program storage medium in which a user requests and obtains information over a network. In the prior art, when a client requests information from a server, the client must remain in a connected state with the server in order to obtain the desired information. See specification at pages 1-2. However, it often takes a long time for the client to acquire all of the desired information from the server. In addition, the client must maintain a connected state with the server, thus resulting in increased costs. See specification at page 2.

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, as recited in for example, independent claims 1 and 4, when a user makes a request for information via the retrieval request receiving means, the user is issued a reservation number which will later be used to obtain their request. See specification at page 12, lines 15-24 and page 20, lines 4-7. The information request, the user's password and parameters of the user's content request will be stored in contents retrieval management table via a contents retrieval means. See Fig. 9, reference numeral 14. Since desired information is not often immediately available, instead of requiring the user to remain connected to the network while the desired information is being retrieved, the user is issued a reservation number and is allowed to terminate their connection to the network.

As further recited in for example, claims 1 and 4, at a later time, the user can then again establish a connection to the network and access the system by entering the issued reservation

number and the user's password for the content retrieval system via the retrieval result providing means. See specification at pages 20, lines 15-26 and page 25, lines 19-25; Fig. 13, S24 and Fig. 14, reference numerals 26a and 26b. At the later time, the requested information will then be available and obtained by the user via the retrieval management table. Therefore, the user did not have to wait and remain connected to the server during the full retrieval time. The user need only enter the reservation number which is associated with the previous request and the user's password and they may retrieve the desired information. A user can make numerous content requests and each content request will be given a separate reservation number. See specification at page 23, lines 6-10.

In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, as recited in for example, dependent claim 2, a retrieval result can be displayed as a thumbnail image if desired by the user. See specification at page 13, lines 11-23 and page 22, lines 7-12; Fig. 15, reference numeral 27 and Fig. 16, reference numeral 28. This further describes the retrieval request receiving means and contents retrieval means as described in claim 2.

In another exemplary embodiment, as recited in for example, dependent claim 3, if desired by the user, the user can be notified via electronic mail when their retrieval result is obtained. See specification at page 13, lines 24-27 and page 14, lines 1-11. This further describes the functions of the retrieval request receiving means and contents retrieval means as described in claim 3.

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VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Kobayashi in view of Jacobs.

VII. ARGUMENTS

Appellant respectfully requests that the members of the Board reverse the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kobayashi in view of Jacobs since the combination of Kobayashi in view of Jacobs fails to disclose or make obvious each and every feature of claims 1-15.

A. Rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kobayashi in view of Jacobs

1. Kobayashi and Jacobs

The Examiner asserts that the combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs makes the present invention obvious.

Kobayashi pertains to a database linking system. Column 11, lines 66-67. In the past, it was often difficult to group the databases to which a user has access. In particular, identifying the databases to which a user had access was time consuming and required extensive operator knowledge. See Background of the Invention. Kobayashi attempts to solve the problem by grouping users and the information which they can access. Instead of individually identifying the databases a user can access, multiple users are grouped together, based on their employment position. Since employees in similar positions often have access to the same information, they will be given access to the same databases. See Abstract.

When a user logs into a system, the system initializes all of the databases and the system determines what files the user is allowed to access. See Fig. 8 and accompanying text. The

“login ID” entered by the user is converted by the system into a “user ID” which acts as a retrieval key. The system organizes the databases which are accessible by the user based on the retrieval key. By converting the login ID into a retrieval key, the system can more efficiently obtain the databases to which a user has access. Column 8, lines 26-35. Once the databases are set, the system then verifies whether the user password is correct. If the password is correct, then the user is allowed to access the databases that were just initialized. Column 10, lines 16-35. The user is then allowed to view employee information. See Fig. 19.

Jacobs pertains to remote user profile management. See Background of the Invention. In the past, when access parameters to a computer, such as a user’s password, need modification, an administrator was required to physically access the user’s computer and modify the password. See Jacobs col. 1, lines 60-65. Jacobs permits an administrator to remotely modify the user’s password without requiring the administrator to go to the user’s computer directly through the use of User Profile Management. See col. 4, lines 41-45. The user’s computer and the administrator’s system, interact to share the necessary information for remote management. See Jacobs claim 1.

2. Claims 1, 4, 6-11, and 14-15

a. Kobayashi Does Not Disclose Issuing a Reservation Number of the Retrieval Processing as described in claims 1 and 4

The Examiner maintains Kobayashi teaches setting up processing conditions for retrieval processing in accordance with a retrieval request and issuing a reservation number of the

retrieval processing and informing the user of the reservation number, as recited in claims 1 and 4.

In claims 1 and 4, the user is informed of the reservation number and an inquiry concerning a retrieval result is made based on the reservation number. None of the aspects of Kobayashi, as cited by the Examiner, include these characteristics in combination.

The Examiner cited col. 10, lines 16-24 for teaching this aspect of claims 1 and 4. The respective column and lines cited by the Examiner describe retrieving a user DB access right file (UAF) when a user inputs a login name. The input login name is converted into the login name of the employee information file DB and access to files in the database is determined.

If the Examiner is arguing that the converted login name is an issued reservation number, at no point is the user of Kobayashi informed of the converted login name. The user login is converted to ease system control of information and is used to determine what information is accessible by a user. Therefore, while the converted login name is applied for internal system use, the system does not further inform the user of this information. For example, when a user inputs a login name of "tuzaki" the login name is converted to "A-1" which represents that the user belongs to the user group "Department Manager" and the corresponding files available for a Department Manager to view, are obtained. Column 10, lines 20-21, Fig. 3A2. Furthermore, the user is never informed of the converted information.

Even if a user inquires about a retrieval result, at no point does the user make an inquiry on the retrieval result with the reservation number. The reservation number, as previously

argued by the Examiner, is the login ID entered by the user which is later converted for system use to a user ID. At no point is the user aware of the converted ID and at no point does the user use the converted the ID to obtain access to the system. Jacobs does not cure this deficiency.

Therefore, Kobayashi and Jacobs do not explicitly or implicitly disclose issuing a reservation number for the retrieval processing conditions and provision of retrieval result based on the reservation number cited by claims 1 and 4.

b. Kobayashi Does Not Disclose Applying a Reservation Number to Processing Conditions and Registering the Reservation Number in a Retrieval Management Table as described in claims 1 and 4

The Examiner states that in col. 5, lines 9-15 that Kobayashi teaches a “File” which defines the database name “personnel” and the file name “employee information” and that “Field” defines the item name “employee No.” of the employee information file DB, which allows retrieval of the item “employee No.” of the employee information file (DB) using the item “user No.” of the login management information file (LMF) as a retrieval key.

Claims 1 and 4 describe applying the reservation number to the processing conditions and registering the reservation number with a predetermined management table. As previously indicated, the employee No. is part of an employee’s personnel information which is stored in a database. When a user logs into a system and enters a password, the personnel information can be provided to the user. The employee No. is not applied to the processing conditions

(converting a login name to the login name of the employee information file DB as cited by Examiner) and *registered* with a predetermined management table.

**c. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does Not Disclose a
Retrieval Results Storage File as described in claims 1 and 4**

Claims 1 and 4 further describe that the retrieval result providing means retrieves a result associated with the reservation number from among the retrieval results stored in the retrieval *results storage file*.

In rejecting this aspect of claims 1 and 4, the Examiner states that a retrieval result providing means is taught in Kobayashi. Additionally, the Examiner states that Kobayashi col. 10, lines 16-21 teaches that the input login name is converted into the login name of the employee information file.

However, it is unclear what aspect, if any, is being cited for teaching a result storage file since Jacobs was cited for teaching this aspect of the claims. The rejection as stated includes several ambiguities that cannot support the rejection.

The Examiner later states that Kobayashi does not explicitly indicate a retrieval request receiving means for receiving a retrieval request of contents on a communication network from a user accessing through the communication network and contents retrieval means for retrieving the contents on the communication network in accordance with the processing conditions registered with the retrieval management table and storing the retrieval result, as further described in claims 1 and 4, and cites Jacobs to cure the deficiency.

The Examiner states that Jacobs implicitly indicates authorization checking by means of a logon facility and administration of user ID 's and passwords, citing col. 4, lines 41-51. The Examiner then states it would be obvious to combine the teaching of Kobayashi and Jacobs with a retrieval request of contents on a communication network and a contents retrieval means.

The respective column and lines cited by the Examiner disclose a UPM security system which requires a logon ID and password before a user can access a system. A UPM is used to define a user logon profile which store information enabling user's logon to remote systems. It appears that the Examiner is referring to a user logon profile for teaching contents on a communication network registered with a retrieval management table. However, there would be absolutely no reason why the user logon profile (containing a logon ID and password) would be stored with the reservation number (converted logon ID of Kobayashi) in a predetermined retrieval storage file. In particular, it is unclear why based on a logon ID (reservation number of Kobayashi), a user would request a user ID (retrieval result of Jacobs). This clearly does not make sense and the Examiner's reasoning is merely a result of hindsight. Therefore, Jacobs does not teach the contents retrieval means of claims 1 and 4.

**d. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does Not Cure the
Deficiencies of the Prior Art**

Furthermore, the cited prior art does not pertain to shortening a queue (wait) time required for obtaining a retrieval result, as described in an embodiment of the present invention. See specification, p. 2, 1st paragraph - 3rd paragraph. For example, the present invention is

focused on providing a retrieval result without a long queue time based on the reservation number for the retrieval processing conditions, after the stage of a user access right or security matters. The effects are achieved through the structure as described in the claims. Since the cited combination lacks these structures, the attendant effects are also not realized.

e. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does not Provide a User with the Option to Retrieve New Information or Refer to a Past Retrieval Request as described in claim 6

The Examiner asserts that Kobayashi col. 10, lines 16-21 describes that the system comprises a service menu wherein the user is prompted to select between retrieving new information or referring to a past retrieval as the retrieval request, as recited in claim 6.

However, the respective column and lines cited by the Examiner describe that when the login name of a user who requested an access is input to the system, the user DB access right file UAF is retrieved on the basis of the input login name. The input login name is converted into the login name of the employee information file DB.

There is no indication of a service menu nor is there any indication that a user is prompted between retrieving *new* information or referring to a *past* retrieval request. When a user accesses the database of Kobayashi, it appears that each retrieval is new. Therefore, claim 6 should be deemed patentable.

**f. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does not Disclose
Prompting a User for Their Password and the Respective Reservation
Number as described in claim 7**

Claim 7 describes that a user is prompted for a password and the reservation number when an inquiry concerning the retrieval result is made, which is not described in claim 1. However, the Examiner indicated that claim 7 was rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

Regardless, the combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs does not teach the elements of claim 7. In Kobayashi, a user is prompted for a password and login ID when trying to access the system. There is no indication that the user is prompted for a password and reservation number when making an *inquiry concerning* a retrieval result. In particular, it does not appear that a user can make an inquiry concerning a retrieval result in Kobayashi since the retrieval result (access to database) appears to be immediately available to the user upon entering their logon ID and password. Therefore, claim 7 should be deemed patentable.

**g. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does Not Disclose Initially
Registering a Reservation Number with the Predetermined Retrieval
Management Table as described in claim 8**

The Examiner rejected claim 8 on the same basis as claim 1. However, claim 8 describes that the reservation number *is initially* registered with the predetermined retrieval management table at the time of the retrieval request, which is not described in claim 1.

In Kobayashi, the information is personnel information which have previously been entered into the database. Therefore, when a user enters their login ID, the information to which they have access such as the employee No., will be made available to them. Therefore, the employee number is not *initially* registered with the predetermined management table *at the time* of the retrieval request.

If the Examiner is arguing the that login ID is the reservation number, it is apparent that the login ID is not initially registered at the time of the retrieval request. In particular, if the login ID has not been previously registered, then the user will not be able to access the system. For the above reasons, claim 8 should be deemed patentable.

**h. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does Not Disclose That a
Reservation Number is Unique to Each Retrieval Request as
described in claim 9**

The Examiner rejected claim 9 on the same basis as claim 1. However, claim 9 describes that the reservation number is unique to each retrieval request, which is not described in claim 1.

Assuming the Examiner is citing the login ID for teaching the reservation number, it is apparent that a user is assigned a login ID and that the login ID is not modified every time a user accesses the database. See abstract.

Assuming the Examiner is citing the employee No. for teaching the reservation number, it is apparent that the employee No. is not dependent on a retrieval request, but is a number associated with an employee. See Fig. 5.

For the above reasons, claim 9 should be deemed patentable.

i. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does not Disclose a Display or that the Reservation Number is Displayed to the User as described in claim 11

Claim 11 describes a plurality of retrieval result storage files wherein one of the plurality of retrieval results storage files is created for each retrieval request.

The Examiner states the Kobayashi col. 4, lines 16-30 teaches the elements of claim 11. The respective column and lines cited by the Examiner describes that when a user requests data matching a predetermined condition, an application program received the retrieval request and generates an SQL statement. The SQL statement is sent to a relational database which analyzes the statement and accesses an employee information file. An access right setting table form represents table form information to be displayed and output in setting/changing an access right of the employee information file in accordance with a user attribute in units of user groups.

The respective column and lines cited by the Examiner merely describes the operations performed when a user accesses a database. There is no indication of a plurality of *result storage* files nor is there any indication that a result storage file is created for each retrieval request.

Moreover, the login name of Kobayashi is unique for one user whereas more than one “reservation number” can be issued for one user according to each retrieval request. Therefore, a login name is not a reservation number.

Therefore, claim 11 should be deemed patentable.

3. Claim 2

**a. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does Not Disclose
Displaying a Retrieval Result as One of the Processing
Condition in the Form of a Thumb-nail Image as described in
claim 2**

The Examiner maintains Kobayashi teaches a retrieval request receiving means which sets up whether there is a need to display retrieval results in the form of a thumb-nail, as described in claim 2, and cites column 4, lines 26-30 in support.

However, the respective column and lines of Kobayashi cited by the Examiner describe an access right setting table form to be displayed and output in setting/changing an access right of the employee information file DB in accordance with a user attribute in units of user groups. The access information does not relate to display of a retrieval result. It is unclear where thumb-nail images, let alone displaying retrieving results in the form of a thumb-nail is at all disclosed in the column and lines cited by the Examiner.

Assuming *arguendo*, the Examiner meant to cite Jacobs for teaching that the contents retrieval means of claim 2, there is absolutely no indication throughout the reference that thumb-nail images are created, let alone an image storage file for storing the thumb-nail images.

Moreover, because claim 2 depends upon claim 1, the arguments set forth above for claim 1 also apply to claim 2.

For the above reasons, claim 2 should be deemed patentable.

4. Claim 3

- a. There is No Indication in the Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs of Informing a User Via Electronic Mail That a Retrieval Result is Obtained as described in claim 3**

The Examiner maintains that Kobayashi in combination with Jacobs teaches the elements of claim 3. Claim 3 describes that the retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to inform a user by electronic mail that a retrieval result is obtained. There is absolutely no indication throughout either Kobayashi or Jacobs that electronic mail is sent to a user.

The Examiner reasons that since Kobayashi discloses file sharing, distributed applications and databases and other services, that it also discloses informing a user through electronic mail. There is absolutely no indication in Jacobs that a user is informed of a result of a request through electronic mail. The mere discussion of file accessibility does not teach the electronic mail component of claim 3. The Examiner is making assumptions about a reference, when there is no evidence that the reference discloses such elements.

Moreover, because claim 3 is dependent upon claim 1, the arguments set forth above for claim 1 also apply to claim 3.

Therefore, claim 3 should be deemed patentable.

5. Claims 5, 12 and 13

**a. The Combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs Does Not Disclose a
Second Login for Obtaining Retrieval Results According to a
Reservation Number as described in claim 5**

Claim 5 describes a second log on wherein a user at a second log on time establishes a connection to the network and the retrieval result providing means provides the retrieval result for the user based on the reservation number. The Examiner rejected claim 5 for the same reasons as claim 1. However, claim 5 describes the second log on which is not described in claim 1.

Furthermore, at no point do the prior art distinguish between a first log on and a second log on. In Kobayashi, there is one log on during which the login name of the user is converted into the login name of the employee information file in order to access a system. Col. 10, lines 16-24. In Jacobs, there is a single log on during which a user ID and password are entered in order to access a system. Col. 1, lines 20-25. Since the first and second log on of claim 5 are not taught in the prior art, claim 5 should be deemed patentable.

**b. The Examiner has not Established Where the Elements of Claim 12
are Taught in the Art nor Does the Combination of Kobayashi and
Jacobs Teach the Elements of Claim 12**

Claim 12 was rejected on the same basis as claim 1. However, claim 12 describes that the contents retrieval means executes retrieval regardless of the state of user network connection to the contents retrieval means, which is not described in claim 1.

Since the Examiner has not established where the elements of claim 12 are taught in the prior art, for at least this reason, claim 12 should further be deemed patentable.

Regardless, there is no indication in the prior art that the system of Jacobs (contents retrieval means as cited by Examiner) executes retrieval regardless of a state of user network connection to the contents retrieval means. Therefore, claim 12 should be deemed patentable.

**c. The Examiner has not Established Where the Elements of Claim 13
are Taught in the Art nor Does the Combination of Kobayashi and
Jacobs Teach the Elements of Claim 13**

The Examiner rejected claim 13 on the same basis as claim 1. However, claim 13 describes that the communication network comprises an Internet and the contents retrieval means executes retrieval even when the user closes an Internet browser to the Internet, which is not described in claim 1.

Regardless there is no indication of an Internet browser in the cited prior art. Therefore, claim 13 should be deemed patentable.

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Moreover, because claim 5, 12 and 13 are dependent upon claim 1, the arguments set forth above for claim 1 also apply to claims 5, 12 and 13.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Appellants respectfully requests the members of the Board to reverse the rejection of claims 1-15 and to find each of the claims allowable as defining subject matter which is not made obvious by the combination of Kobayashi and Jacobs.

Unless a check is submitted herewith for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §41.37(a) and 1.17(c), please charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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CLAIMS 1-15 ON APPEAL:

1. A contents retrieval system comprising:

retrieval request receiving means for receiving a retrieval request of contents on a communication network from a user accessing through the communication network, and setting up processing conditions for retrieval processing in accordance with the retrieval request, and further issuing a reservation number of the retrieval processing and informing the user of the reservation number, and in addition applying the reservation number to the processing conditions and registering the same with a predetermined retrieval management table;

contents retrieval means for retrieving the contents on the communication network in accordance with the processing conditions registered with said retrieval management table and storing the retrieval result, together with the reservation number, in a predetermined retrieval result storage file; and

retrieval result providing means for retrieving a retrieval result associated with the reservation number from among the retrieval results stored in said retrieval result storage file, when an inquiry concerning the retrieval result is made from a user based on the reservation number, and providing the retrieval result for the user.

2. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to display a retrieval result as one of the processing conditions in form of a thumb-nail image, so that the set up result is registered with said retrieval management table, and

said contents retrieval means creates the thumb-nail image and stores the thumb-nail image in a predetermined image storage file in the event that the thumb-nail image is needed in accordance with the set up result as to whether there is a need to display the thumb-nail image registered with said retrieval management table.

3. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval request receiving means sets up as to whether there is a need to inform a user by an electronic mail of the fact that a retrieval result is obtained at the time point when the retrieval result as one of the processing conditions is obtained by said contents retrieval means, so that the set up result is registered with said retrieval management table, and

said contents retrieval means informs the user by an electronic mail of the fact that the retrieval result is obtained in the event that the thumb-nail image is needed in accordance with the set up result as to whether there is a need to inform the user by the electronic mail registered with said retrieval management table.

4. A contents retrieval program storage medium storing a contents retrieval program for forming a contents retrieval system on a computer system, said contents retrieval system comprising:

retrieval request receiving means for receiving a retrieval request of contents on a communication network from a user accessing through the communication network, and setting up processing conditions for retrieval processing in accordance with the retrieval request, and further issuing a reservation number of the retrieval processing and informing the user of the reservation number, and in addition applying the reservation number to the processing conditions and registering the same with a predetermined retrieval management table;

contents retrieval means for retrieving the contents on the communication network in accordance with the processing conditions registered with said retrieval management table and storing the retrieval result, together with the reservation number, in a predetermined retrieval result storage file; and

retrieval result providing means for retrieving a retrieval result associated with the reservation number from among the retrieval results stored in said retrieval result storage file, when an inquiry concerning the retrieval result is made from a user based on the reservation number, and providing the retrieval result for the user.

5. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein a user establishes a connection to the network at a first log on wherein the retrieval request is made and the reservation number is issued; and

wherein a user establishes a connection to the network at a second log on wherein the retrieval result providing means provides the retrieval result for the user based on the reservation number.

6. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising a service menu, wherein the user is prompted to select between retrieving new information or referring to a past retrieval as the retrieval request.

7. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein a user is prompted for a password and the reservation number when an inquiry concerning the retrieval result is made.

8. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein the reservation number is initially registered with the predetermined retrieval management table at the time of the retrieval request.

9. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein a reservation number is unique to each retrieval request.

10. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a display, wherein said display displays said reservation number to the user.

11. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a plurality of retrieval result storage files, wherein one of a plurality of retrieval result storage files is created for each retrieval request.

12. A contents retrieval system according to claim 5, wherein the contents retrieval means executes retrieval regardless of state of user network connection to the contents retrieval means.

13. A contents retrieval system according to claim 12, wherein the communication network comprises an internet, and the contents retrieval means executes retrieval even when the user closes an internet browser to the internet.

14. A contents retrieval system according to claim 1, wherein said retrieval request receiving means comprises a server, wherein said server issues said reservation number of the retrieval processing.

15. A contents retrieval program storage medium according to claim 4, wherein said retrieval request receiving means comprises a server, wherein said server issues said reservation number of the retrieval processing.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX:

None.



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RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

None.



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